

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**International Paper and VA DEQ/Virginia Office of Environmental Education
Announce Love- a -Tree Kits on Land Conservation are Available**



*Paula Klonowski, DOE, Harold Burkett, International Paper,
Susie Gilley, DGIF, and Sean Kerlee, International Paper.*

The kit is a unique Virginia Naturally partnership between government and private organizations – International Paper, state natural resource agencies, and the Virginia Office of Environmental Education at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The kit's Teacher's Guide contains lessons that focus on three main concepts – why land conservation is important, what threats exist to the protection of open space (or the protection of our land base), and how land is managed to address the needs of a variety of stakeholders.

We especially thank John Rankin at International Paper, whose employees from the Franklin Mill volunteered to assemble the materials into 2500 kits.

In April 2006 Virginia Governor Tim Kaine stated that it will be the goal of his administration to permanently protect 400,000 acres of land. Among the many benefits of this goal are preserving water quality, providing additional opportunities for recreation, and preserving wildlife habitat and historic landscapes.

If you'd like to receive this year's kit, please contact Stephanie Feaser srfeaser@deq.virginia.gov
For questions regarding the content, please contact Kris Jarvis kdjarvis@deq.virginia.gov.

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If you'd like more information on land conservation in Virginia, visit www.naturalresources.virginia.gov/Initiatives/LandConservation .For additional Love-a- Tree kit information, www.deq.virginia.gov/education/loveatree.html and for environmental education resources in Virginia visit www.vanaturally.com